behalf by the State Government, including rules relating to the payment of fees and postal charges, any person may —

(a) Cause a search to be made by the Registrar for any entry in a register of births and deaths; and (b) obtain an extract from such register relating to any birth or death.

Provided that no extract relating to any death, issued to any person, should disclose the particulars regarding the cause of death as entered in the register.

(2) All extracts given under the section shall be certified by the Registrar or any other officer authorised by the State Government to give such extracts as provided in section 76 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving the birth or death to which the entry relates."

In view of the above stipulation the vital records could be microfilmed after blackouting the cause of death. This would go a long way in encouraging the demographical as well as genealogical studies which are in a state of infancy in our country. The Resolution, therefore, deserves full support.

5.2.9.2.2

Acquisition of Microfilm Copies from Abroad

5.2.9.2.2.1

Acquisition of microfilm copies of records on Indian Revolutionaries from France

Resolution by Prof. Mohibbul Hasan:

The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that the National Archives of India should obtain microfilm copies from the Archives Nationales, Paris, relating to the revolutionary movement in India during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Explanatory Note: A file entitled Revolutionaries Hindous in the National Archives, Paris, throws light on the activities of a number of Indian revolutionaries like Shimajee, Amar Dutt, Ratan Dorab Tata, Savarkar and others, who having escaped for fear of arrest from Britain and India, tried to organise revolutionary and anti-British movements in the security and freedom of Paris. They maintained with the Indian revolutionaries in India and Europe. The file also contains some of their correspondence, French police reports of their activities and press cuttings about them of the French Newspapers like Le Matin and L'Humanit and others. There are also references to German agents like Weiss and Madame Cama who helped in organising anti-British acitivities and paid secret visits to India. It further gives full account of the extradition of Savarkar to the British after his escape from Mauritius.

Standing Committee's Views:

A similar resolution was passed at the 37th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Delhi in October, 1966 recommending that letters, documents, journals and other original writings relating to the Indian revolutionaries abroad be procured and preserved at the National Archives of India (Resolution V).

In pursuance of the policy of the Government of India the National Archives of India since 1948 has been acquiring from abroad microfilm copies of records of Indian interest bearing on Modern Indian History, including among others the

papers concerning the Indian revolutionaries abroad. This item is generally given high priority in the acquisition programme of the National Archives of India. This is evident from the Guide to Microfilms from Abroad recently brought out by the National Archives of India.

5.2.9.2.2.2

Acquisition of copies of records on Shawl trade from USSR

Resolution by Professor Mohibbul Hasan

The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that the National Archives of India should acquire documents from the Soviet Union relating to the shawl trade between Kashmir and Moscow and the various towns in Central Asia and on the Volga.

Explanatory Note: Shawls from Srinagar were carried to the markets in Samarkand, Bukhara, Tiflis, Astrakhan, Baku and Moscow by Armenians, Turks, Khirgis and by Kashmiris themselves. Moscow was an important centre of the shawl trade in Europe, and merchants went there from various European countries to purchase Kashmir shawls and Kashmir shawl wool. Tiflis (modern Tbilisi), the capital of Georgian S.S.R., with its large Armenian population, was very prosperous, and an important market for shawl trade, which was carried on by the Armenian and Kashmiri merchants. Tiflis had two bazaars which were the centres of this trade. Annual fairs were quite common in the towns on the Volga and in these fairs large scales of shawl wool and shawls were transacted.

Standing Committee's Views:

A similar Resolution was passed at the 37th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission (Resolution VII)